



Commission on Children and Youth Meeting Summary March 9, 2016

Members Present: Shari Argue, Gina Brown, Ethan Chen, Tom Grazio, Lindsay Hoffman, Nancy Kaplan, Nora Ludden, Elizabeth McGlynn, Stuart Grossman, Cecily Darden-Adams, Dr. Angela Mickalide, Howard Nicholson, Tamara Niedomanski and Roberta Rinker.

Members Absent: Dana Bell, Adraine Clutter, Carson Henry, Gina Polley, Bobbi Sherman, Sareanna Kimia and Beka Urgessa.

Guest: Detective Matt Vendemio, 4th District Wheaton, Montgomery County

Staff Present: Erin Stillwell and Marva Younger

Roberta Rinker, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Guest Speaker:

Detective Vendemio of the Montgomery County Police Department for the past 13 years was the guest speaker. During his early years he served in the Peace Corp. Detective Vendemio talked about some of the crimes frequently committed in the County, however, all crimes were not specifically related to homeless youth. One of the members of the Homeless Sub-Committee asked Detective Vendemio if he had any suggestions how to improve the youth homelessness problem in Montgomery County. Although he did not have any suggestions at the time, he would give it some thought and get back with any information he may be able to come up with.

Approval of January 13th and February 10th Minutes

Moved to approve minutes – Dr. Angela Mickalide

Seconded by Lindsay Hoffman

Unanimously approved

My Brother's Keeper Sub-Committee Report

Elijah Wheeler of the Collaboration Council was unable to attend the March meeting. He is planning to speak at the April meeting. Laura Brown and Otto Perez from the Y's youth mentoring program will also be invited to the April meeting. Both may speak to all the commissioners at the beginning of meeting and may also meet separately with the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee is narrowing their focus on a mentoring program and how best to recruit mentors. Several of the members will research various organizations to get ideas how their mentoring programs work and if they are successful.

Homeless Sub-Committee Reports

The Sub-Committee discussed various situations that involved youth homelessness. Some homeless youth encounter criminal activities through gangs (sometimes committing criminal acts to be initiated into a gang). Police can provide contact information from the crisis center. Police usually call before the youth leaves jail. The Sub-Committee will look at cost benefit analysis of various prevention models in other areas (California) to see if they were successful. They will also gather information of other jurisdictions similar to Montgomery County's demographics. In addition, they will contact the Youth Reach MD for information.

Nominations for Upcoming Election of Chair and Co-Chair

Nominations for Chair and Co-Chair will be accepted at the April meeting and also electronically by April 29 to Erin. Voting by secret ballot will be held at the May meeting. Members may nominate themselves.

Tour de Cookie

The upcoming Tour de Cookie will be held on Saturday, May 7 (rain or shine) at Johns Hopkins University, Rockville Campus. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to bake and/or help manage the stands. A theme is also needed. Each cookie stand must be decorated and displayed with theme and ingredients of homemade cookies. A planning meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 7:00pm.

Nancy Dworkin Awards

The Nancy Dworkin Award will be held on Monday, May 16 at Johns Hopkins University, Rockville Campus, Gilchrist Center Auditorium. Erin was able to contact some family members of the late Nancy Dworkin. Some of them will be in attendance at this event. Plans are underway to finalize the entertainment and refreshments. The awardees will be selected by the Nomination Committee on April 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.